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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/531,699	10/06/2005	Takeshi Matsumura	529.44847X00	2227

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04/16/2008

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1300 NORTH SEVENTEENTH STREET

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ARLINGTON, VA 22209-3873

EXAMINER

WEATHERBY, ELLSWORTH

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3768

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

04/16/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The reply filed on 12/18/2007 is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because of the following omission(s) or matter(s):
2. The amendment filed on 12/18/2007 canceling all claims drawn to the elected invention and presenting only claims drawn to a non-elected invention is non-responsive (MPEP § 821.03). The remaining claims 21-41 are directed to an invention that lacks unity with the invention originally claimed for the following reasons:

Claims 1-20 and Claims 21-41 are related as combination and subcombination. That is, the combination does not require the specifics of the particular diagnostic measurements acquired in the newly added subcombinations. Specifically, the newly added means for determining a comparison for a spread condition of a stiff area of tissue with respect to the predetermined area of tissue has separate utility and are not required by the combination. There would be a serious search burden if the restriction were not required.

Conclusion

Since the above-mentioned amendment appears to be a *bona fide* attempt to reply, applicant is given a TIME PERIOD of ONE (1) MONTH or THIRTY (30) DAYS, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this notice within which to supply the

omission or correction in order to avoid abandonment. EXTENSIONS OF THIS TIME PERIOD UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a) ARE AVAILABLE.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ELLSWORTH WEATHERBY whose telephone number is (571) 272-2248. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Casler can be reached on (571) 272-4956. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Brian L Casler/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 3737

EW

